



# **Die Fledermaus**

**JOHANN STRAUSS** 

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Johann Strauss



# Die Fledermaus THE BAT'S REVENGE

presents a new production of

Opera in three acts Sung in German Dialogue spoken in English

#### **JOHANN STRAUSS**

Libretto by Haffner and Genée, from the French vaudeville *Le reveillon* by Mailhac and Halévy. English translation of dialogue by Camilla Nielsen (by arrangement with the Austrian Embassy)

Conductor Director Set Designer Costume Designer Lighting Designer Asst Director David T. Heusel Kurt Palm Ursula Hübner Renato Uz Adam Silverman John McKeown

Opera Ireland Chorus

Chorus Master Claudio Büchler

RTÉ Concert Orchestra (*Leader* Michael d'Arcy) by kind permission of the RTÉ Authority

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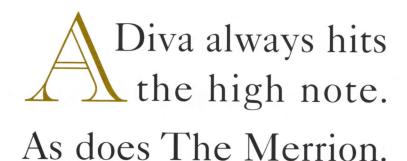
There will be intervals after Act 1 and Act 2

Surtitle translation: Kenneth Chalmers

EDITION:

Musikverlag Cranz, Mainz

Artistic Director: Dieter Kaegi General Manager: David Collopy



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### **CAST**

# Die Fledermaus

#### THE BAT'S REVENGE

Gabriel von Eisenstein

Rosalinde, bis wife

Adele, ber maid

Dr Falke, Eisenstein's friend

Frank, the prison governor

Alfred, a singer

Prince Orlofsky

Dr Blind, a solicitor

Ida, Adele's sister

Frosch, a prison warder

Répétiteur

Stage Manager

ASM

Student ASM

Dramaturg

Richard Brunner

Janis Kelly

Louise Walsh

John Hancock

Gerard O'Connor

Michael Kristensen

Joyce Campana

James Nelson

Sandra Oman

Frank Kelly

Mairéad Hurley

Paula Tierney

Miriam Harper

Aoife Tansey

Monika Jacob

Die Fledermaus was first performed at Theater-an-der-Wien, Vienna on 5 April 1874. The first DGOS performance was at the Gaiety Theatre, Dublin on 10 December 1962

# ACTING FOR PERFORMERS



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# THE PLOT

# Die Fledermaus

#### THE BAT'S REVENGE

It all began some time before the events seen on stage. Coming back from a fancy-dress party in the early hours of the morning, a certain not-too-sober Dr Falke fell asleep and was abandoned by his equally inebriated friend Eisenstein. When he finally awoke at daybreak, the embarrassed man had to make his way home, in broad daylight, wearing only a bat costume. The time has now come for him to take his revenge.

#### Act 1:

The *bon vivant* Gabriel von Eisenstein has committed a minor offence and must serve a short prison sentence. On the way to gaol, however, he plans to drop in on a party to which he has been invited by his good friend Dr Falke. Of course, his wife Rosalinde has no inkling of this as she and her maid Adele bid him a sad farewell. What he doesn't know is that, as soon as he is out of the house, Rosalinde will be entertaining an old flame of hers, the singer Alfred. And what neither of them knows is that Adele has also been invited to Orlofsky's party. As Rosalinde and Alfred settle down for an evening's 'reminiscing', they are interrupted by the arrival of Frank, the prison governor. He too is on his way to the party, but he has detoured in order to escort Eisenstein to gaol. He naturally assumes that Alfred is the man he has come for and, rather than compromise his lady friend, the unfortunate singer reluctantly allows himself to be arrested.

#### Act 2:

The party is in full swing. This is no ordinary party, though, but one of those lavish and uninhibited affairs given occasionally by the extremely wealthy and thoroughly bored Prince Orlofsky. As Falke's revenge begins to take shape, Eisenstein finds himself mistaking a vivacious young actress for his wife's maid - which she is; becoming a bosom buddy of the prison governor - who he thinks is a French aristocrat; and flirting with a masked 'Hungarian' beauty he doesn't recognise as his own wife. But then, with the amount of champagne he has imbibed, it's a wonder he can still stand up, yet alone recognise the pawns in Falke's game. Instant sobriety returns with the arrival of dawn. Eisenstein and Frank each remember that they ought to be elsewhere. They promise to meet up again sometime, not knowing that that meeting will be sooner than expected.

#### Act 3:

A now sobering-up Frank arrives back at the prison where the never-ever-sober warder Frosch has been boozily holding the fort. Alfred has repented of his chivalry and has sent for a solicitor. To the amazement of the befuddled governor, Eisenstein, Adele and Rosalinde now turn up in quick succession. So too does Eisenstein's solicitor Dr Blind, and there is a dramatic confrontation between the two 'Eisensteins'. Finally, Falke arrives and claims his revenge. They all agree to blame everything on the effects of the evening's consumption of champagne.

# EDERMAUS



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# FLEDERMAUS AND THE VIENNA OF JOHANN STRAUSS

The image most of us have of Vienna is compounded of these elements: the eternal glittering chandeliers, the champagne, the masked balls, the drives through the Prater in the early morning mist, the cabbies. And then the restaurants (with convenient *chambres séparées*), the Wiener Schnitzel (the *chef d'oeuvre* of the Austrian cuisine), the zithers and the waltz. Everything, of course, to be done in 3/4 time - not at the double, but at the three-quarters.

This view of Vienna is supported by Johann Strauss, by the picture created through the elegant hedonism of his music, music which closely mirrors all the escapist joys of his time. With his operetta *Die Fledermaus* Strauss seems to have captured for us Vienna - an ideal, laughing Vienna - and preserved it, living, in his music. This is the city as it liked to be in the third quarter of the nineteenth century.

By the 1860s Vienna was a place of prosperity. Franz Josef, coming to the Imperial throne in 1848, was determined, after suppressing all the revolutionary feeling that had edged his predecessor off the throne, to bring Austria into line with England and France by building railways and encouraging industry generally. At the same time he intended to give Vienna a face-lift: this meant the demolition of many old buildings, the construction of the Ringstrasse and the general replacement of old building by new. (This event was chronicled, as were many events of the day, in a piece of music by Strauss - the Demolierpolka.) Some of the most famous buildings in Vienna date from this time, amongst them the Opera, which opened in 1869 with a performance of Mozart's Don Giovanni. The new buildings varied in style, but were all intended to reflect the confidence and prosperity of the new economy.

There was more money to spend in those days and after 1850 there grew up in the city a night-life that it had not had before. On these occasions the gentlemen were not fettered by their wives, whose respectability excluded them from such orgies of pleasure: these were the days of the triumph of the demi-monde (the dancers at Prince Orlofsky's party would come into that category). The only hope a respectable woman had was to attend a masked ball, where a girl could pleasantly play with fire (and not only girls, for masks were elaborate and could cover a great number of years) and a man could seek adventure, though he had to gamble on his luck in more ways than one. The masked ball was a symptom of the moral attitude of the time and Rosalinde appearing in a mask at the ball "because her husband is so madly jealous", seems to Eisenstein a pushover for an amorous adventure.

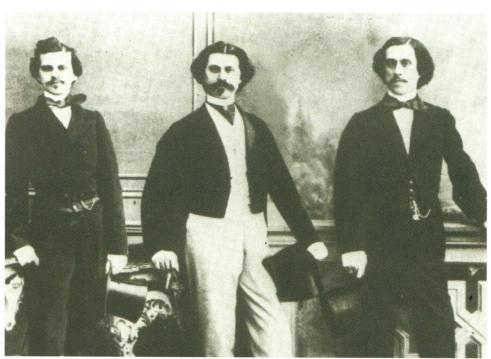
Money was plentiful indeed, and made itself more so by speculation. Many new companies were started and people encouraged to put their savings into these "certainties". Men became millionaires overnight and cast around for some means to spend their money. For a while even it was more difficult to spend than to make money. Champagne was introduced into Austria and became the symbol of success, which it could hardly fail to do since it cost a good deal more than the local wines. Amidst all this frivolity Austria prepared to show the rest of the world just what she could do with her industry. Undeterred by two appalling military defeats - in 1859 at

Solferino by the French and in 1866 at Koniggrètz by the Prussians - Franz Josef went ahead with his plans for the exhibition. Europe could hardly have been called stable, for in 1871 came the Franco-Prussian War and the might of Prussia was obviously growing out of all control, but the Emperor was determined to show that what London (in 1851) and Paris (in 1867) had done, Vienna could also do. The internal economy was so inflated that in these days it would have sent the bank-rate flying up, and yet the reckless living of "New Vienna" went on. Titles were bought and the nouveau riche nobility danced at the receptions and the ever more glittering balls to the music of Johann Strauss.

The Exhibition itself was opened by the Emperor on May 1 1873, the speeches bold, the grounds opulent, the attendance distinguished (among them old Kaiser Wilhelm and the Shah of Persia, who

stimulated Vienna enormously by bringing his entire harem). But in spite of all this, confidence in the Vienna Stock Exchange began to evaporate and eight days after the Exhibition's glorious opening came the crash. All the brave new industries were revealed as bubbles and the speculators' money vanished as they burst in the air of that Black Friday. The old fatted-calf routine was over and the hangover from the champagne party was beyond the reach of any coffee.

All of this has the greatest relevance to *Die Fledermaus*, for it was written in 1874, and although Strauss was patently not affected by the atmosphere of depression, the public still was, and the incredible fact is that this operetta, undoubtedly the most tuneful ever written, had no success when it first appeared in the April of that year. It ran for a mere sixteen performances and was then withdrawn. The reasons, as often in these



Eduard, Johann and Joseph Strauss

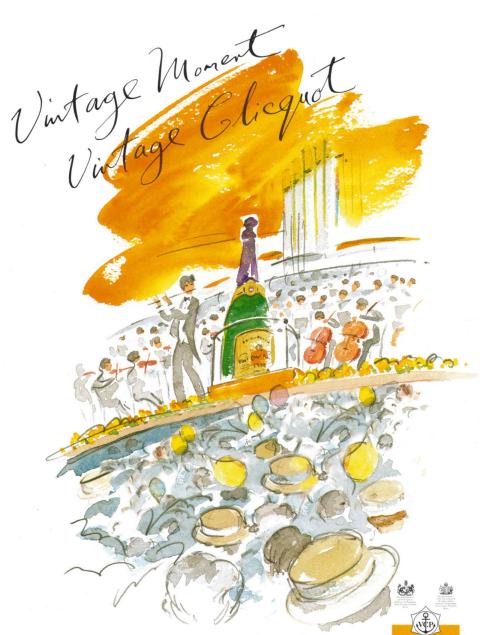
cases, had nothing to do with the real merit of the work, but solely with the fact that in his operetta Strauss had enshrined the frivolity of the 1860s - the hero a rentier, a man of private means, a capitalist, the centre of the plot of a ball whose perpetrator is immensely wealthy and bored withal. It was only success in another place that, as with Strauss's Blue Danube Waltz, brought the Viennese to see beyond their present feelings and to recognise the greatness of the music. It was Paris that had given the seal of success to the Blue Danube, and now it was Berlin's turn, for when Die Fledermaus was produced there in June 1874 it was a succès fou. Even so, it was not until September that Max Steiner, director of the Theater an der Wien, slipped it back into the Viennese repertory. Then it earned its full reward and has remained, and will always remain, the greatest operetta ever written.

But we have begun with the end first. In the musical life of the 1860s light entertainment was provided by Austrian adaptations of Offenbach's operettas; the debunking wit and ironic melodic charm of the French-German master fitted exactly the mood of the Viennese. Used as they were to sentimental plays with songs, the bite of Offenbach and his two principal librettists, Meilhac and Halévy, came as a welcome astringent. Offenbach's popularity in Vienna lasted hardly more than a decade, for in 1871 he fell from favour in Paris and Germany, the French considering him responsible for the moral flabbiness that led to their defeat in the war with Prussia (a bit of muddled thinking typical of a nation in defeat) and the Germans blaming him for having, as a German, gone over to the French. All this must have had some effect in Austria, for Offenbach retired from the Viennese stage, leaving the way wide open for Strauss, who was certainly his inferior as a stage-craftsman, though not as a melodist. For a while Franz von Suppé, Dalmationborn of Italo-Belgian descent, had some

success on the stage. Nowadays we know him only by his overtures, the works to which they preceded having fallen into disuse.

But it was Offenbach whose operettas had made the theatrical stars of Vienna. In Paris his star had been Hortense Schneider, here in Vienna it was two women - Josefine Gallmeyer and Marie Geistinger - who triumphed in his works. Die Geistinger is the one that concerns us here, for she was the first Rosalinde, as well as the co-director of the Theater an der Wien which produced all but three of Strauss's sixteen stage works. She was not Viennese, having been born in Leipzig, but made her debut in Vienna in 1865 in La belle Hélène and remained there until her death in 1884 at the early age of forty-eight. As much an actress as a singer (she appeared with success in Shakespeare), her performances in Strauss's operettas were undoubtedly a contributory factor to their first success. With a figure on nineteenth century lines, and curves that were generous as well as undeniably shapely, she must nevertheless have been a considerable singer to cope with Rosalinde's music.

By 1870, however, Strauss, Vienna's darling, had written nothing for the stage. He was forty-five and his waltzes were worldfamous, his marriage to a rich woman had freed him from the drudgery of conducting, which had worn his father out. To his wife, Jetty Treffz, an ex-opera singer, the time was ripe for him to conquer the theatre, and she entered into conspiracy after conspiracy to achieve her aim. Undaunted by the fate of his last experience of setting words (the Blue Danube, whose words were silly, as well as political), she at last persuaded him by the ruse of having words put to some of his music and sung to him. Seeing that his music went well when united to words, Strauss was at last prevailed upon to write.



Veu<mark>ve Clicq</mark>uot

CHAMPAGNE OF THE SEASON

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Playbill for the first performance of Die Fledermaus

His first work, Die lustiger Weiber von Wien, libretto by Braun, Suppé's librettist, came to nothing because the composer wanted Gallmeyer to play the leading role. hardly tactful considering that her rival Geistinger was a director of the theatre which was to present the work. The second, Indigo oder die vierzig Rauber, was the first as far as posterity is concerned, and for the opening night the theatre was jammed to the doors. The libretto was so poor that the Viennese suggested that the forty robbers of the title were really the forty librettists! Max Steiner, the other director of the theatre, described it in the programme as the old story, arranged for the stage by himself - a noble act of self-sacrifice if ever there was. However, Indigo was a success because of Strauss's music, and he was launched on his career.

Strauss's second opera, *Der Karneval in Rom* (1873) was also a success, but it is with the third, *Die Fledermaus*, that Strauss played his Ace. *The Gypsy Baron* is generally supposed to have a better libretto, though it is more sentimental (perhaps that is why), but the complete distillation of gaiety and *joie de vivre* that the composer put into *Die Fledermaus* has never been equalled.

The libretto of Strauss's masterpiece is adapted from a French play by Meilhac and Helévy, Offenbach's librettists, and this is what attracted Steiner's attention to it. They in their turn had taken it from a German play by Roderich Bendix. Whatever the genealogy, though, there is a French quality about the mistaken identity of Alfred, and a German one in the idea of Falke's revenge. The plot is not perfectly constructed, in that Falke's revenge is too dependent on mere chance - Alfred's arrest as Eisenstein, Rosalinde's last-minute attendance at the ball, Adele's ability to go - but the net result is a series of situations, each of which contains enough dramatic irony to make it extremely amusing. Consider then: a lover arrested in error for a husband; two men pretending to each other to be French when in fact they are in reality prisoner and gaoler; a man making love to his own disguised wife; a maid, pretending to be an actress, meeting her master who is pretending to be a Marquis. This is all in the Aldwych farce tradition and very amusing. Strauss added music that is constantly tuneful and gay and at times genuinely comic (the Trio in Act 1 "So muss allein ich bleiben" is the best example of this).

Strauss's inspiration was great - when he first had the libretto he took fire, and, virtually cutting himself off from the world, he completed the whole score in forty-three days - a score of which nearly every bar is memorable and stamped with his own personality. Music is a great humaniser, and with this music he gave life to characters who in cold print are shabby (Eisenstein irascible, dissolute; Rosalinde playing with adulterous fire; Falke vindictive; Orlofsky dissipated and bored) and saved them from themselves, transforming them into warm, generous creatures with more than their fair share of charm. If Strauss was on the whole unsuccessful in his dramatic music, then he compensated for it by breathing into Die Fledermaus sufficient life to last an eternity.

Gordon Stewart 1960



Adele and Johann Strauss

# SCHANI, ADELE, AND THE FRIENDLY CITY OF COBURG

The situation was difficult, but not hopeless. The year was 1885 and Johann Strauss II, the Catholic-baptised composer with a Jewish family history, wanted to finalise his separation and marry his mistress Adele. Schani, as the composer was known to his intimates, had divorced his second wife, Lili, in 1882 in order to live with the 33-year-old Hungarian Jewess whose late husband, by coincidence, had also been called Strauss.

The problem was that although legally divorced from Lili, the powerful Catholic church authorities in Austria did not recognise this and marriage to Adele was not possible while Lili remained alive. There was a solution. But it meant that Johann and Adele had to change not only their religions, but also their citizenship. So the Austrian authorities were probably not too surprised when, on 4 November 1885, they received an application from the composer's representatives asking that Strauss be relieved of his Austrian citizenship in order to become a citizen of Saxony.

The German Empire would only allow Strauss to stay in Saxony on condition that he agreed to reside in the "friendly city of Coburg", which was ruled at that time by the art patron, Duke Ernst. After Adele and Strauss converted to Protestantism, Strauss's application was processed by the Coburg officials and he became, officially, a citizen of Saxony. There was now nothing preventing his marriage to Adele and, on the 15 August 1887, Johann Strauss married for the third time.

Strauss's "immoral" and politically incorrect life-style was looked upon with disapproval by many of the top people at the Royal Court, with the result that his application to become the court's musical director was

turned down. Indeed, in May of 1856 he received a letter from the court proclaiming that his music was "revolutionary" and that Strauss himself was "thoughtless, immoral, and a squanderer."

Strauss's marriage to Adele, and the means by which it had occurred, was a thorn in the sides of several members of the Strauss family; but it also resulted in information being readily available to various Strauss biographers. Because, after the composer's death, Adele proved to be a great source of information, as she had complete access to archive material. These biographies, along with copies of letters, often pornographic in content, between Strauss and his earlier wives and lovers, further heightened interest in the dead composer.

The Strauss family legend was further fostered by his brother Eduard, who declared that after the breaking-up of the Strauss orchestra, all its music manuscripts should be burnt. Eduard had also proclaimed that his great grandfather was Spanish and was descended from a Marquis. Interestingly enough, his great grandfather on his mother's side was the son of a fruit handler from Luxembourg.

In fact, his great grandfather on his father's side was a Hungarian Jew, born in 1720. This fact only came to light some over 200 years later, as the result of research amongst the records in St. Stephen's Cathedral in Vienna in the 1930s. For reasons of their own, the Nazis chose to ignore these findings and declared that Johann Strauss was a fully Aryan German. They even went to the trouble of making an official announcement that "the German waltz king was most certainly not a Jew".

Kurt Palm



#### **BIOGRAPHIES**

#### RICHARD BRUNNER Tenor (USA) - Eisenstein

Richard Brunner has appeared with many leading opera companies in North America and Europe and he has also sung in South America and Japan. He made his European debut in Nice in 1988-'89 as Froh in Das Rheingold and this was followed by engagements in Paris and at the 1989 Spoleto Festival. In the same year he sang in *Parsifal* at the Bayreuth Festival, to which he has returned frequently. He has also sung in Graz (Don José), Glasgow (Florestan), St Gallen (Horace in Schoeck's Venus) and at the Vienna State Opera where his roles included Florestan, Elemer in Arabella, Narraboth in Salome, Cassio in Otello, Walter in Tannhäuser, Erik in Die fliegende Holländer and Boris in Katya Kabanova. Richard Brunner's extensive repertoire also includes Walter von Stolzing, Gounod's Faust, Bacchus in Ariadne auf Naxos and roles in Hindemith's Cardillac and Strauss's Friedenstag. He has recorded Le nozze di Figaro under Barenboim for Erato. He has also performed frequently in concert with major symphony orchestras in important American concert halls.

#### CLAUDIO BÜCHLER (Argentina/Austria) – Chorus Master

The son of Argentinean parents, Claudio Büchler was born in Oslo and reared in Austria. He started studying piano at the age of six and later took up the French Horn. After graduating from Vienna's Theresianische Akademie in 1973 he continued his higher education in horn, composition and conducting at the Faculty of Music in the University of Vienna and took a Diploma in Orchestral Conducting under Otmar Suitner in 1981. He has also participated in conducting courses and masterclasses with Leonard Bernstein and Gerd Albrecht. Claudio Büchler has held conducting and répétiteur positions in Vienna, Passau, Regensburg, Magdeburg and Dublin, where he last appeared as Chorus master and Assistant Conductor with Opera Ireland in 1994. In 1990 he was invited to guest conduct in Argentina and he has also worked at the Aix-en-Provence Festival, at the Opera of Monte Carlo and with the Mozarteum Orchestra of Salzburg.

#### JOYCE CAMPANA Mezzo-soprano (USA) – Prince Orlofsky

Ohio-born Joyce Campana made her European debut at the Dresden Semper Opera recently in the title role of Rossini's *La Centerentola*. In the USA, where she has appeared with many opera companies, her other Rossini roles include Rosina in *Il barbiere di Siviglia* and Isobella in *L'italiana in Algeri*. She has also sung Puccini's Suzuki, Jenny in Weill's *The Threepenny Opera*, Baba the Turk in *The Rake's Progress* and the title roles in *Carmen*, *Der Rosenkavalier* and Blitzstein's *Regina*. On the concert platform she has been soloist in choral works by Verdi and Beethoven and has sung Mahler's song-cycle *Lieder eines fahrenden Gesellen* with leading American orchestras. She recently gave a recital of scenes and arias at the Belle Isle Summer Music Festival in France. Joyce Campana has received awards from the Metropolitan Opera National Council and the International Enrico Caruso Competition, where she was chosen as one of the three top finalists by Giulietta Simionato.



#### **BIOGRAPHIES**

#### JOHN HANCOCK Baritone (USA) - Dr Falke

A native New Yorker, John Hancock studied French Literature at Occidental College and at the Sorbonne before pursuing his musical education at the Juilliard School. Career highlights include: the title role in Eugene Onegin for Opera Ireland; Marcello in La Bobème at Canadian Opera Company and Glyndebourne; Sharpless in Madama Butterfly and Rossini's Figaro at Pittsburgh Opera; Belcore in L'elisir d'amore and Albert in Werther at Florida Grand Opera, Miami; Carmina Burana at l'Opéra de Montréal and New York City Opera; Valentin in Faust and Enrico in Lucia di Lammermoor at Opera Company of Philadelphia; Lord Henry in Lieberman's The Picture of Dorian Gray at l'Opéra de Monte Carlo; le Duc in Bizet's La jolie fille de Perth at Opéra de Rhin, Strasbourg; Figaro (Barbiere), Marcello, Silvio (Pagliacci) and Malatesta (Don Pasquale) at New Israel Opera, Tel Aviv.

#### DAVID T. HEUSEL (USA) - Conductor

American-born David T. Heusel, who returns to Opera Ireland for the fourth time, began his professional career in 1975 as Musical Assistant for the Whitewater Opera Company in Richmond, Indiana. In 1981 he moved to Germany where, for nine years, he worked at Oberhausen, Kiel and Dortmund as vocal coach, Head of Musical Staff and House Conductor, developing a repertoire of over 90 operas, operettas, musical comedies, ballets and contemporary works. In 1990 he became Assistant Conductor of the Philharmonic Orchestra at l'Opéra de Nice where he was also able to expand his concert repertoire. From 1994 to 1996 he was house conductor at the Opéra Comique in Paris. While at the Comique he guest conducted Rigoletto in Osaka and assisted James Levine in Wagner's Ring cycle at Bayreuth. Since 1997 Mr Heusel has conducted in Japan, the USA and Germany. In January he made his Swiss debut at the Grand Théâtre de Geneve with La fille du régiment, which was televised live. Future plans include L'elisir in the USA and Le rossignol/Cavalleria in Japan.

#### URSULA HÜBNER (Austria) – Set Designer

Ursula Hübner began her studies in stage design at the Mozarteum in Salzburg and went on to study art at the Academy of Applied Arts in Vienna. During the past decade she has worked on various productions with Kurt Palm and Renato Uz. Many of these were staged in unusual locations, places such as old factories, riding stadiums, petrol stations and airport lounges. She has also designed for theatres in Vienna, Zurich, New York and Ulm. She now lives in Vienna and Lintz, where she is a Professor of Art at the University for Art and Industry.



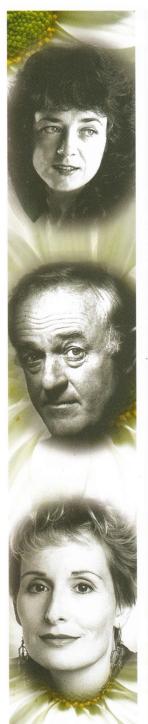


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#### MAIRÉAD HURLEY (Ireland) - Répétiteur

Mairéad studied under Rhona Marshall at the RIAM in Dublin as well as at UCD and the National Opera Studio in London. Currently working as répétiteur at the DIT Conservatory of Music and Drama, she has performed extensively throughout Ireland and the UK as recitalist, accompanist and répétiteur. She has prepared operas for Opera Ireland (most recently *The Tales of Hoffmann*), Opera Touring Company, Opera Northern Ireland and the RTÉ Proms. Two years ago she toured Northern Ireland with ONI's *The World of Opera* and she has since worked on ONI's *Madama Butterfly*, *Idomeneo* and *Hansel and Gretel* 

#### FRANK KELLY (Actor (Ireland) - Frosch

Frank Kelly, who plays the incorrigible Fr Jack in the multi-award winning TV series *Father Ted*, now adds opera to a career that already spans radio, television, theatre and films. He has played a wide variety of roles in Irish theatre and has toured extensively in the USA and Canada. His film credits range from *Ryan's Daughter* to *The Italian Job, Taffin, The War of the Buttons* and, most recently, *Aristocrats*. Television appearances include *The Year of the French, Memoirs of an Irish RM, Remington Steele* and *Troubles*. He also appeared for twelve years in *Hall's Pictorial Weekly*. Frank has written widely for TV and radio and recorded many radio plays. His own weekly radio comedy

radio and recorded many radio plays. His own weekly radio comedy show, which eventually generated a million listeners, ran for seven years. He has released six albums of his comedy material and written a successful comedy novel, *The Annals of Ballykilferret*, which was serialised on radio. His spoof on The Twelve Days of Christmas was recently published by O'Brien Press.

#### JANIS KELLY Soprano (UK) - Rosalinde

Glasgow-born Janis Kelly has a wide repertoire of operas, operettas, musicals and recordings. As a regular guest with ENO, she has sung Mozart's Countess, Rose Maurant in Weill's Street Scene and, recently, Romilda in Handel's Xerses as well as roles in operas from four centuries by composers ranging from Purcell to Birtwhistle and Glass. For Opera North she has performed the Countess, Musetta and Magnolia in Showboat. Frequent appearances in Opera Factory productions include Monteverdi's Poppea, Cavalli's Calisto and Tippett's Knot Garden. She also filmed David Freeman's Mozart cycle for Channel 4. Outside the UK she has appeared with Anchorage Civic Opera, Handel Opera at the Midem Festival in Cannes, and as Mimi with Opera South in Cork. Her festival appearances include Handel with William Christie at Aix-en-Provence and Haydn and Mozart at Garsington. Janice also appears frequently in concerts and recitals. Recent overseas engagements have taken her to Spain, Portugal and Switzerland. She will sing the title role in La traviata for Opera North next year.

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#### MICHAEL KRISTENSEN Tenor (Denmark) - Alfred

Michael Kristensen studied at the Royal Opera Academy in Copenhagen, from where he graduated in 1994, the year in which he also joined the Royal Opera. His roles include Don Ottavio, Tamino, Leander in Nielsen's *Maskarade*, Truffaldino in Prokofiev's *Love of Three Oranges*, Cassio, Steuermann in *Der fliegende Holländer*, Pedrillo, Brighella in *Ariadne auf Naxos*, Elemer in *Arabella* and Arbace in *Idomeneo*. Next season he will be singing Nemorino at the Royal Opera in Copenhagen. Michael Kristensen has appeared in concert with several Danish symphony orchestras and has sung in Schubert's *A flat Mass* with the Oslo Philharmonic under Heinz Wallner. On CD he has recorded Nielsen's *Maskarade* under Ulf Schrimer for Decca and Koppel's *Moses* with the Danish Radio Symphony Orchestra as well as Britten's *A Birthday Hansel*. He will shortly be recording the role of Valenin in Weyse's *The Sleeping Draught* with the Danish Sinfonietta.

#### JOHN MCKEOWN (Ireland) - Assistant Director

John McKeown has worked extensively in the theatre as a composer. His credits include Co-Motion's production of Joe O'Byrne's *The Sinking of the Titanic*; Tin Drum's *The Kiss of the Spiderwoman*; Edna Walsh's *Tales from Havilah* and Stage Company's *Lady Chatterly's Lover*. Recent endeavours include successfully completing a BA in Film Production, acting as choral co-ordinator for Michael Flatley's Hyde Park extravaganza *Feet of Flames* and assistant director of Colin Mawby's children's opera *The Torc of Gold*. John McKeown's most recent composition, *Sanguis Innocens*, is due to be performed by the National Chamber Choir in 1999. He is also an Opera Ireland veteran, having been a chorus member in many of its recent productions.

#### JAMES NELSON Tenor (Ireland) - Dr Blind

Sligo-born James Nelson is a BA, B Mus (Hons) graduate from University College Dublin. As an oratorio soloist, he has performed more than 60 works, including the Narrator in *L'Enfance du Christ* alongside Katia Ricciarelli in Rome and Florence, and Frank Martin's *Golgotha* in Bern and Zürich. In opera, his roles include Vitek and Hauk in *The Makropoulos Case*, Paul in *The Grand Duchess* and Ajax I in *La belle Hélène* for Scottish Opera; Lensky in *Eugene Onegin* in Russia; Tichon in *Katya Kabanova* for OTC and in Portugal; Cecco in *Il mondo della luna* for OTC and the Buxton Festival; Snout/Wall in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* for Singapore Lyric Opera; and roles for Opera Ireland, OTC, Opera South, Wexford Festival and New Israeli Opera. Forthcoming engagements include Sellem in *The Rake's Progress* for OTC and Mozart's Don Basilio for Scottish Opera.





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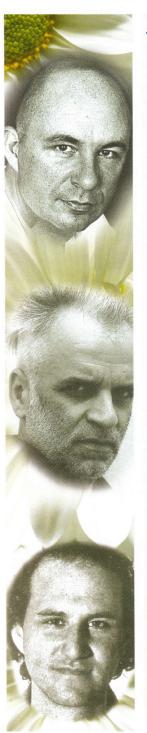
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#### **BIOGRAPHIES**

#### GERARD O'CONNOR Bass (Ireland) - Frank

Born in Co Galway, he received the Guinness Bursary at the National Opera Studio in London. His roles include Colline (*La Bobème*), Pistol (*Falstaff*), Baron Zeta (*Merry Widow*), Antonio (*Figaro*) and the Bonze (*Madama Butterfly*), all for Opera Ireland; Parson/Badger (*Cunning Little Vixen*) for Opera Northern Ireland; Alidoro (*La Cenerentola*) at Castleward; the Abbot (*Curlew River*) at Covent Garden Festival; Snug/Lion (*Midsummer Night's Dream*) for Singapore Lyric Theatre; Sparafucile (*Rigoletto*), Simone (*Gianni Schicchi*) and Il Cieco (*Iris*) at Holland park; St John in the world premiere of James Wilson's *A Passionate Man* in Dublin; Sarastro (*Magic Flute*) and Osmin (*Zaire*) for Opera Theatre Company in Ireland, Holland and Belgium; Mamirov (Tchaikovsky's *The Enchantress*) at Brighton Festival, a role he also covered at the ROH Covent Garden; and various roles for RTÉ and Wexford Festival. Gerard O'Connor's future plans include singing the three villains in *Hoffmann* in the UK.

#### KURT PALM (Austria) - Director

Born in Upper Austria in 1955, Kurt Palm has been working as a director in theatre and on television for almost sixteen years. In Austria, he directed Alan Bennett's *Kafka's Dick*, Gustave Flaubert's *Le sexe faible*, Flan O'Brien's At Swim Two Birds, Frederick Knott's Dial M for Murder and many other plays. At the Vienna Festival he directed the world premiere of Grilparzer and Futscher's *The Wild Hunter* and in New York he has done an evening of Bertolt Brecht's erotic songs and poems, *In ber Mouth the Taste of Another Man* and the Wolfgang Bauer double-bill *Magic Afternoon* and *Tadpoletigermosquitos at Mulligan's*. Kurt Palm has also directed festivals devoted to the works of musicians and writers as diverse as Mozart, Webern, Stifter and Joyce. His first feature film, an adaptation of Flan O'Brien's *At Swim Two Birds*, has received accolades at major festivals, including the Dublin Film Festival earlier this year.

#### ADAM SILVERMAN (USA) - Lighting Designer

Adam Silverman's opera credits include Macbeth, Eugene Onegin and Merry Widow for Opera Ireland; Giasone directed by Alden at Spoleto Festival, USA; La traviata directed by Alden for New Israeli Opera; Der Rosenkavalier directed by Kaegi in Seattle; Faust at Welsh National Opera; L'etoile at Opera Zuid, the Netherlands; Il turco in Italia, Boris Godunov, House of the Dead and Wozzeck for Long Beach Opera; La Périchole, Orfée aux enfers, Les mamelles de Tiresias and La colombe for L'Opéra Français de New York; Il re pastore and Lucia for Boston Lyric Opera. Adam Silverman's theatre credits include Bartholomew Fair (Royal Shakespeare Company); As You Like It (Shakespeare Theatre Washington); and Lawrence Boswell's production of Beauty and the Beast at London's Young Vic. A Tale of Two Cities, directed by Alan Stanford at Dublin's Gate Theatre; The New Bozena (Cherry Lane, NY); Dark Ride and Devil Inside (SoHo Rep, NY). He has also designs for Blue Dance Theatre, Minneapolis Dance Theatre and choreographer Martita Goshen.

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#### **BIOGRAPHIES**

#### RENATO UZ (Austria) - Costume Designer

Renato Uz was born in Salzburg, where he studied stage and costume design at the Mozarteum. After some years spent as an assistant, he began his career as an independent designer in 1985 and has worked on productions in Hamburg, Zurich, Vienna, Stuttgart, Frankfurt, Nürnberg and many other places. Since 1991 he has also acted in plays and in Kurt Palm's film adaptation of *At Swim Two Birds*. His most recent designs were for Nico Dostal's operetta *Clivia* at the Dresden Staatsoperette this year.

#### LOUISE WALSH Soprano (Ireland) - Adele

Born and educated in Dublin, Louise Walsh was second prize winner in the 1994 Belvedere International Competition in Vienna. She studied singing with Mary Brennan at the DIT College of Music in Dublin, then at the RNCM in Manchester and the National Opera Studio in London. In October 1995 she joined Stuttgart Opera where her roles have included Sandman and Dew Fairy in Hänsel und Gretel, Serpina in Pergolesi's La serva padrona, Servilia in La clemenza di Tito, Xenia in Boris Godunov, Pauline in La Vie Parisienne, and Musetta in La Bobème. For ONI she sang Ilia in Idomeneo and the title role in Janácek's The Cunning Little Vixen. Louise Walsh has also appeared in Handel's Tamerlano withOTC, with whom she will Anne Trulove in The Rake's Progress in February. Her other roles include Mozart's Susanna, the Fairy in Massenet's Cendrillon and Britten's Tytania, Last season she made her debut at La Monnaie in Brussels as a Flower Maiden in Parsifal.

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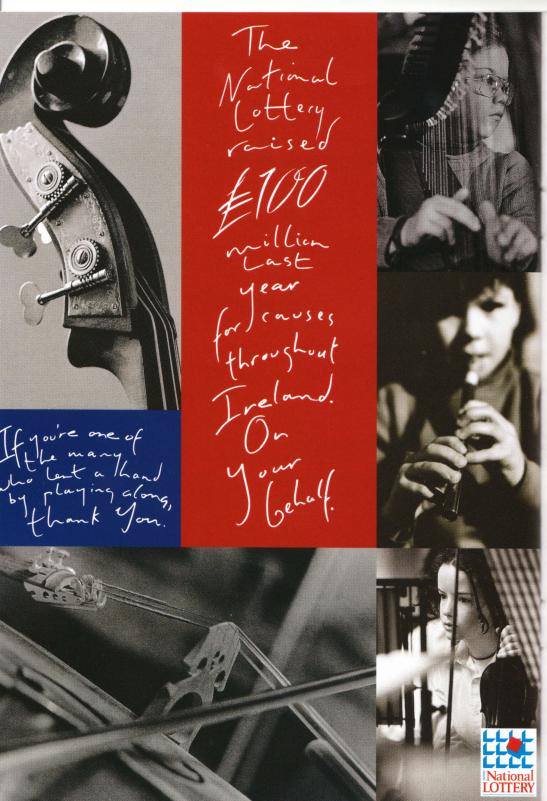
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Gibney Mick & Jo Gibson John & Patricia Gill Eamonn & Aine Gilmor Dorothy Ms Gilpin George Mr Gleeson Maria Ms Gogan Joe Mr Goor Magsi Mrs Gordon Stephen Mr Gormley Dermod Mr Gormley Philip G Mr Graham Sylvia Ms Gregory Jennifer Mrs Greif Emer Ms Grimley Roisin & Sean Groarke Patrick J P Mr Grogan Brendan & Patricia

Habersbrunner Eva Ms Haden Moira Mrs Halford Angela Ms Hall Arthur & Grace Hamilton Ebba Countess Hannon John C Mr Hanrahan Dick Mr Hanratty Bernard & Philomena Hanratty Thomas Mr Harpur Anthony & Clair Harrington Carl Mr Hautz John R Mr Healy P A Mrs Hearne G R Mr Hederman O'Brien Miriam Ms Henderson Ciaran Mr Heneghan Brendan Mr Hennessy John Mr Hennessy Maura Ms Herbert Fergal K Mr Heyne Frieda Ms Hickey Declan Mr Hickey Denis Mr Hickey Pamela Jean Ms Higgins Aideen Ms Higgins Niall P Mr Hillis Noel Mr Hobbs Ethel Mrs Hogan Maire Mrs Hogan Michael Mr Holmes William Mr Honan Deirdre Dr Horgan Con Mr Hughes F J Dr Hughes Margaret Dr Hussey Derry & Gemma Hutton Kathryn Ms

Irvine R. Mr & Mrs
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Jennings Breda Mrs
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Joyce Philip Mr
Kane Doris Mrs
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Kane KWS Mr
Kealy Regina Ms

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Lavery Eithne Mrs Lawson Conor Mr Leahy Sarah Ms Leavy Maura Ms Lee Evelyn Ms Lemass Maureen Ms Lenehan James Mr Leonard Barry Mr Linehan Helen& Donal Liston Noreen Ms Little Tony Mr Logan Breda Ms Loughnane James Mr Loughrey John Mr & Mrs Lucas Kenneth Mr Lynch Bill Mr Lynch Kate Mrs Lynch Kevin Mrs Lynders Antoinettes Ms Lyons Patrick D Mr

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Gibney Mick & Jo Gibson John & Patricia Gill Eamonn & Aine Gilmor Dorothy Ms Gilpin George Mr Gleeson Maria Ms Gogan Joe Mr Goor Magsi Mrs Gordon Stephen Mr Gormley Dermod Mr Gormley Philip G Mr Graham Sylvia Ms Gregory Jennifer Mrs Greif Emer Ms Grimley Roisin & Sean Groarke Patrick J P Mr Grogan Brendan & Patricia

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O'Connor Ann Mrs O'Connor Nuala Ms O'Connor John & Viola O'Connor Pat & Joyce O'Connor Maire & Michael O'Dalaigh Tony & Margaret Odlum Dorothy Ms O Donnell Andrew Mr O'Donovan Donal Mr O'Driscoll Thomas A Mr O'Dwyer Edmond Mr O'Farrell James Mr O'Grady Judy Mrs O'Grady Michael & L O'Hara Patricia Dr O'Hara Rosalind Mrs O'Hare Anne Ms O'Hare Daniel Dr O'Keeffe Angela Ms
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O'Leary Barbara Mrs
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O'Neill Ann Ms
O'Neill Desmond Mr
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O'Regan John D Mr

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Schmidt Barbara Ms
Schnittger Charlotte Mrs
Scully Angela Ms
Scully Dermot Mr
Shannon Criofan Mr
Shannon Lilian Dr
Shanik Gregor Prof
Shelly Denis J Mr
Sheridan Gerry A Mr
Sherry Liam Mr
Sherry Mark Mr
Sisk John R Mr
Skelly O D G Rev
Smith Joseph G Mr
Smyth Barbara Ms

Smyth James & Pamela Smyth J W Mr Smyth Robert Rudd Mr Soese Diana Mrs Spellman Michael Mr Spollen Mary Ms Stacey Thomas Mr Stanistreet Myles Mr Stanistreet Myles Mr Stephen Jim Mr Stephen Jim Mr Stephen Jim Mr Stephenson Patrick F Mr Stones Willie Mr Strickland Bob Mr Sweeney John J Mr

Taaffe Peta Ms
Taylor Mervyn Mr
Tennyson Geraldine Ms
Thompson Frank Mr
Thorn Myles Mr
Tierney Martin Mr
Tierney Mary Mrs
Tipton G Mrs
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Treacy Jane Ms
Tuomey Laurence J Mr
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Tynan Inez Ms
Tyrrell Sheila Ms
Vella Isabella Ms

Wall William & Ada Mr Wallace Colette Ms Walsh Aileen Ms Walsh Bernadette Mrs Walsh Martin Mr Walsh Tony Dr Walsh Charles Mr Walsh Kevin Mr Walsh Maureen Ms Walsh Nolie Ms Walsh Thomas Mr Walsh Kevin G Mr Walshe Winifride Ms Walton Patrick A Mr Ward Dermot & Maeve Waring Seamus P Mr Warren-Darley Mary Ms Weatherhead Noel Mr Webb Valerie Ms Whately William Dr Whelan Barbara Ms Woolfe Andrew Dr Wright Bernie Mrs Wyer Laurence Mr Wynne Terri & Dermot

Young William A Mr Younge John P Mr

## DGOS & OPERA IRELAND PRODUCTIONS 1941-1998

Dates indicate the first and most recent productions.

S	alvatore Allegra			Christoph W Gluck			Gioacehino Rossini			
	ve Maria		1959	Orfeo ed Euridice	1960,	1986	Il barbiere di Siviglia	1942.	1991	
II	medico suo malgrado	0	1962				La Cenerentola	1972,		
	- medico suo margrado		1702	Charles Gounod			L'italiana in Algeri	1978,		
1	Iichael W Balfe			Faust	1941,	1995	2 minum mingen	1770,	1,,,2	
	he Bohemian Girl		1943	Roméo et Juliette		1945	Camille Saint-Saëns			
1	ne Boneman Om		1943	Romeo et sunette		1743	Samson et Dalila	1942.	1070	
т	decresc.			Caorga F Handal			70 Str.	1942,	19/9	
	udwig van Beethove		1001	George F Handel		1042	D I'V I C			
F	idelio	1954,	1994	Messiah		1942	Bedrich Smetana	1050	1056	
							The Bartered Bride	1953,	1976	
	incenzo Bellini			Engelbert Humperd						
	a sonnambula		1963	Hänsel und Gretel	1943,	1994	Johann Strauss			
N	orma	1955,	1989	. vv .			Die Fledermaus	1962,		
I	puritani		1975	Leos Janácek			Der Zigeunerbaron		1964	
				Jenufa		1973				
B	enjamin Britten						Richard Strauss			
	eter Grimes		1990	Franz Lehár			Der Rosenkavalier	1964,	1984	
	The state of the s		.,,,	The Merry Widow	-	1997				
C	eorges Bizet			f 3 Rt. 154			Ambroise Thomas			
	0	1041	1000	Ruggiero Leoncavall			Mignon	1966,	1973	
		1941,	1989	Pagliacci	1941,	1998	g.ioii	1700,	1775	
L	es pêcheurs de	1064	1007	Dietro Massagni			Peter Ilich Tchaikovs	kv		
	perles	1964,	1987	Pietro Mascagni		1050	Eugene Onegin	1969.	1007	
				L'amico Fritz		1952	The Queen of Spades	1909,	1972	
	ustave Charpentier			Cavalleria rusticana	1941,	1998	The Queen of Spades		19/2	
L	ouise		1979	Jules Massenet			C'			
				Manon	1952,	1000	Giuseppe Verdi			
F	rancesco Cilea			Werther			Aida	1942,		
A	driana Lecouvreur	1967,	1980	werther	1967,	19//	Un ballo in maschera			
				Wolfgang Amadeus l	Mozart		Don Carlos	1950,		
D	omenico Cimarosa			Così fan tutte	1950.	1003	Ernani	1965,		
	matrimonio segreto		1961	Don Giovanni	1943.		Falstaff	1960,	1998	
**	manufaction segreto		1,01	Idomeneo		1956	La forza del destino	1951,	1973	
0	laude Debussy				4 -	1930	Macbeth	1963,	1997	
	elléas et Mélisande		1948	Die Entführung aus	1040	1064	Nabucco	1962,	1986	
Г	eneas et iviensande		1948	dem Serail	1949,		Otello	1946,	1981	
	/ D III			Le nozze di Figaro	1942,		Rigoletto	1941,	1994	
	éo Delibes			Die Zauberflöte	1990,	1996	Simon Boccanegra	1956,		
L	akmé		1993	Jacques Offenbach			La traviata	1941,		
				Les contes d'Hoffman	-1045	1000	Il trovatore	1941,		
G	aetano Donizetti			Les contes à Homman	111945,	1990	11 110 111010	1,11,	1,,,,	
D	on Pasquale	1952,	1987	Amilcare Ponchielli			Gerard Victory			
L	'elisir d'amore	1958,	1996	La Gioconda	1944,	1984	Music Hath Mischief		1968	
L	a favorita	1942,	1982		18		THE TANK THE CONTENT		1700	
L	a figlia del			Giacomo Puccini			Richard Wagner			
	reggimento		1978	La Bohème	1941,	1996	Der fliegende			
L	ucia di Lammermoor	1955.		Gianni Schicchi	8 Pos	1962	Holländer	1946,	1064	
		,		Madama Butterfly	1942,	1993	Lohengrin	1971,		
F	riedrich von Flotow			Manon Lescaut	1958,		Tannhäuser	1971,		
		1082	1992	Suor Angelica		1962	Tristan und Isolde			
IV	iai ula	1702,	1992	Tosca	1941,			1953,		
	mah amta Ci			Turandot	1957,		Die Walküre		1956	
	mberto Giordano	1055	1000	Taluidot	1751,	1700	E			
		1957,		Licinio Refice			Ermanno Wolf-Ferra		1051	
F	edora		1959	Cecilia Kence		1954	Il segreto di Susanna		1956	
				CCCIIIa	-	1934				



PATRON: BOARD OF DIRECTORS: Eileen O'Mara Walsh (Chair), Adrian Burke, Barbara Dawson, Derek Keogh, Danny Kitchen, Frank O'Rourke, Sarah Rogers, Paul G Smith. Margaret McDonnell, Donald J Potter, Aileen Walsh. VICE-PRESIDENTS: ARTISTIC PATRONS: Dr Veronica Dunne, Suzanne Murphy, Dr John O'Conor, Dennis O'Neill. GENERAL MANAGER ARTISTIC DIRECTOR **PRODUCTION** David Collopy Dieter Kaegi MANAGEMENT **ADMINISTRATOR** ASSISTANT TO ARTISTIC Foley & Byrne Ltd Kay Keilthy DIRECTOR COMPANY MANAGER Angela McCrone Donal Shiels MARKETING CONSULTANT CHORUS REPETITEUR Dorothy Whelan **PRODUCTION** David Brophy **ELECTRICIANS** MARKETING EXECUTIVE Mark Waldron WARDROBE SUPERVISOR Taragh Loughrey Grant Sarah Bowern Brendan Swanton Steve Dignam PR CONSULTANT DEPUTY SUPERVISOR Kate Bowe PR PRODUCTION CARPENTER Sineád Cuthbert Kevin Courtney BOX OFFICE MANAGER WARDROBE STAFF Carolyn Wilkinson STAGE CREW Frances Cairde Garry Woods ADMINISTRATION Sadie Cuffe Declan Costelloe SECRETARY Mary Troy DRESSER PROPS BUYER Margaret Brady

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BOOKING INFORMATION: The Box Office is open Monday-Saturday 10 am-7 pm for advance bookings. Telephone (01) 677 1717. Postal bookings to: The Gaiety Theatre, South King Street, Dublin 2.

**CREDIT CARD BOOKINGS:** All major credit cards are accepted subject to a booking fee of 70p and 30p for all bookings posted out.

GROUP DISCOUNTS: For details please call Alan McQuillan or Alice Grant on (01) 679 5622.
GAIETY THEATRE WEBSITE (information only) www.breakfortheborderplc.com/gaiety

GIFT VOUCHERS: May be purchased at the Box Office.

LATECOMERS: In response to general request, latecomers will not be admitted until a suitable break in the performance.

FIRE PROCEDURE: In the event of an emergency, please follow the instructions of the staff, who are trained in evacuation procedure, and walk quickly through the nearest fire exit, which is clearly marked.

GENERAL INFORMATION: Smoking is prohibited in the auditorium. Glasses and bottles may not be brought into the auditorium. The use of cameras and tape recorders is prohibited.

**KIOSK:** The Gaiety Kiosk is situated in the foyer and is open before the performance and during the interval. The kiosk stocks minerals and confectionery.

ICES: Ices are sold on each level of the auditorium during the interval. For the benefit of party organisers, orders may be placed in advance.

BARS: Bars are situated on the Parterre, Dress Circle and Grand Circle levels. All bars are open half an hour before the performance and during the interval. To avoid queueing for your interval drinks, you may pre-order your drinks and reserve a table in any of the bars.

At the end of the performace, John B's bar on the Parterre level will remain open. The Gaiety bars offer an attractive setting for Conferences, Press Receptions, Fashion Shows and Meetings. The Management reserve the right to refuse admission and to make any alteration in the cast or programme which may be rendered necessary by illness or other unavoidable cause.

#### FORTHCOMING ATTRACTIONS AT THE GAIETY THEATRE

If you are interested in the Gaiety's coming season please fill in the form below and give it to usher on duty or send it to:

THE GAIETY THEATRE, SOUTH KING STREET, DUBLIN 2.

Name:	
Address:	
Telehone Number:	

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